

City of Fort Lauderdale
Infrastructure Task Force Committee
September 6, 2018
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
8th Floor City Commission Room – City Hall
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

1. Call to Order at 2:01 P.M.:

• **Roll Call**

MEMBERS		PRESENT	ABSENT
Marilyn Mammano	P	16	1
Ed Kwoka	A	14	3
Ralph Zeltman	A	16	1
Keith Cobb	P	10	7
Roosevelt Walters	P	16	1
Fred Stresau	P	13	4
Norm Ostrau	P	14	1
David Orshefsky	P	14	0
Jacquelyn Scott	P	2	0

Staff Present

Meredith Shuster, Administrative Assistant
Paul Berg, Public Works Director
Joseph (Joe) Kenney, Assistant Public Works Director
Raj Verma, Staff Liaison

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the September 6th agenda with alterations made by Mr. Walters and seconded by Mr. Cobb.

Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Motion to modify the agenda to move the General Discussion from item #6 to Item #4 to maintain the structure of past agendas by Mr. Orshefsky and seconded by Ms. Scott.

Discussion included the need to monitor time spent on general discussion to enable the completion of the agenda topics.

Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (July 2, 2018 meeting)

A. Motion to approve the minutes for the July 2, 2018 meeting by Mr. Orshefsky and seconded by Mr. Stresau.

Ms. Shuster clarified that the modifications listed on the August 6th minutes for the July 2nd meeting minutes were completed.

Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

B. Motion to approve the minutes for the August 6, 2018 meeting by Mr. Orshefsky and seconded by Mr. Stresau with the following suggestions:

- a. Page 5 paragraph 1: strike “and an offer”
- b. Page 6 paragraph 1: Insert “not” into 2nd to the last line to read: “not stand the pain”
- c. Page 11, last paragraph, 2nd line: change “bases” to “basins”
- d. Page 23, first paragraph, Mr. Orshefsky. . . remove “table” Insert “city seawalls” if an “opinion” is desired.

There was a discussion that the changes made to the minutes regardless of substantive or non-substantive need to be on the record. The need for Mr. Orshefsky to “flyspeck” the minutes in the future which will be reviewed by the Chair; however, it was the Chair’s opinion that minutes need to be approved as expeditiously as possible.

Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

There was further discussion where Ms. Shuster explained how the minutes were taken, transcribed and finalized. Most members agreed that 30 odd pages of nearly verbatim minutes and fly specking were not needed because the meetings are recorded, broadcast, videotaped and on the website. Regarding presentations, the consensus was any motion arising from the presentation would be included in the minutes and the presentation could be viewed in the video recording.

Motion to complete minutes moving forward in summary fashion to include substantive discussion and action items [motions] by Mr. Ostrau and seconded by Mr. Orshefsky.

Roll call vote: Affirmative: Ms. Mammano, Mr. Walters, Mr. Cobb, Mr. Orshefsky, Mr. Ostrau, Ms. Scott.

Opposed: Mr. Stresau

The dissenting vote took into consideration that when a member misses a meeting or the public reads the minutes, in addition to viewing the meeting, reading verbatim minutes was helpful in understanding the underlying reasoning.

4. 5. Informational Items

A. ITF Report Transmitted to the City Commission

It was reported that the Final Interim report was transmitted to the Commission. A reference was made about the “dots” in the cover letter of the Report. It was explained that the backup material from the Outreach Meeting substantiated the references made to the dots in the cover letter.

B. Update on I & I Progress

The progress report providing the update on I & I was explained by Mr. Kenney and Mr. Verma. Upon inquiry, Mr. Kenney clarified that the \$33 Million designated for I & I is only for that purpose and not pump stations. The first map indicated the most critical projects and the locations where the \$33 Million is being utilized. \$20 Million of the \$33 Million has been task ordered to Hazen and Sawyer to expedite the projects. Most of the funding came from the \$200 Million Bond. The 2nd map indicated locations of I & I projects that were deemed the next most critical. It was also explained that the City is working to its maximum capacity on I & I projects. Mr. Verma further explained that I & I is an ongoing issue and there may be other areas to be identified in the future. Mr. Verma reminded the Committee members to expand their focus on the \$1 – \$3 Billion projects that will be needed over the next 20 years or so that was mentioned in their Interim Final Report.

Upon inquiry about the capabilities of City’s Consent Order Consultant, Hazen & Sawyer, Mr. Verma replied they were a national company with enough resources to meet the demands of the project and that there was a penalty clause in the contract to ensure that they met the performance standards and deadlines. Upon additional inquiry as to

- What percentage of all water/sewer infrastructure will be relined when the \$33 Million has been completed and

- What happens with I & I after the \$33 Million has been spent, Mr. Kenney responded that the answers would be forthcoming

Some members were of the opinion that the ITF has not done enough to inform the Commission of the amount of work that needs to be done in the City and the amount of dollars needed. They were concerned about the Commission's reluctance to raise taxes to fund projects like the stormwater system, police facilities, George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant and the like, was not being realistic. It was suggested that instead of being a "watch dog" for monies being spent on specific projects, the ITF should return to the 30,000-foot level of identifying the infrastructure needs and funding mechanisms.

C. List of Various City Master Plans and Studies

Mr. Orshefsky proposed using a work plan for the upcoming meetings between now and the end of the term. [March 2020] similar to the one used by the Budget Advisory Board ("BAB"). He suggested no more than 2 related presentations at each meeting. His suggested topics were Water, inclusive of wellfields and transmission; Roads and Sidewalks; Public Facilities; Seawalls and Canal Dredging; Parks; Police Station; Stormwater; Comprehensive Plan; Sea Level Rise; Walkability and funding needs and sources.

Discussion clarified that the work plan should be based on subject matter as opposed to the funding mechanism (whether a bond would be used to fund it or not) and to leave it to the Commission and the City Manager to determine how to get the funding. The ITF questioned its purpose if the Commission did not see the urgency to take care of the infrastructure needs now and to come up with the funding mechanism to include raising the ad valorem tax rate. It was suggested that commitment to the infrastructure needs should be a part of the Joint Workshop with the Commission on October 10. It was also recognized that the Commission is new and by the next budget season, the ITF will have had a chance to present its recommendations to this Commission.

As a side issue, there was a brief discussion about the responsibility of sidewalk and seawall repairs. It was discussed that they were policy issues that the Commission will have to make by amending the City Ordinance.

On the subject of Fiveash Water Treatment Plant it was brought up whether ITF needs to wait until any current study is finalized before addressing it as a meeting topic. Mr. Berg explained there was a Request For Proposal currently out for bid and the study was anticipated in a year. He pointed out that it is not necessary to wait for the analysis. There may be enough data to substantiate the need without having an exact price tag. The Reiss Report estimates repair/replacement at Fiveash at \$110-\$150 Million and a new plant at approximately \$200 Million. The analysis being done is whether the plant should be repaired or replaced and the quality of water.

Discussion ensued on whether the need should be put in front of the Commission even if the funding source cannot be identified or if only an approximate dollar amount can be determined at the time. Some members felt that by not recommending an issue only because the funding source can't be determined would amount to ITF not fulfilling its purpose. They expressed frustration that the taxes were not raised for twelve years and City services and infrastructure suffered. While some members did not agree with the current thinking of the Commission not to raise taxes, others gave some consideration to the newness of the Commission with the confidence that next the budget year will be different. The members wanted a commitment from the City Commission to address the infrastructure issues and whether the taxes get raised or other funding mechanisms. They agreed to incorporate this subject on the agenda for the October 10th workshop.

On the question of road conditions, Mr. Berg explained the City's current five year "pavement assessment plan" and how the improvements are done based on the rating system. Mr. Verma explained in some detail how the road evaluations are done.

Regarding the final report from the Committee it was suggested to be done a few months before the ITF term ends. It was also suggested that an overall "big number" be done and recommendations made to the Commission in time to meet the initial meetings of the fiscal year budget for 2020 [May, 2019] Additionally, it was suggested that the budget related items be presented first, and if bonding is also suggested then consideration for debt service needs to be taken into account.

Another discussion separated the infrastructure issue from how it is funded. Members in favor of this approach felt that there were other city resources to determine the funding issue and that it isn't the sole responsibility of the ITF. It was expressed that focus on the infrastructure needs should come first because if funding was to be

included simultaneously, it may become too cumbersome. There was general consensus that the number is going to be so large that whether it was \$2 Billion or \$3 Billion would be somewhat immaterial. The challenge was to present the big number and get recognition from the current Commission that these issues cannot be ignored.

In reference to an inquiry regarding the “studies” in the Consent Order, [\$200 Million Bond] Mr. Berg and Mr. Verma responded that the Consent Agreement provides two years for an “assessment” of the condition of the forcemains and to put in place an asset management system. After the improvements are made and/or in conjunction with, the asset management system will help in preventative maintenance and identification of the next priorities for repair.

It was suggested that after some direction is provided by the Commission that looking into a joint meeting with the BAB may be helpful regarding the issue of funding. It was reported that there are basically three funding sources; bonds, taxes, or the budget process and that the ITF may be able to recommend a percentage of funding; such as, “20% can be funded by bonds.” Mr. Orshefsky offered to ask the BAB about a joint meeting with the ITF.

D. Transmittals by Dave Orshefsky

- a. Example of BAB Work Plan sheet was shared with the Committee members to develop a similar work plan for ITF.

5. 6 Old Business

A. Joint Workshop with City Commission on October 10, 2018

- a. The committee members agreed that the agenda for October 1st ITF meeting will be the agenda for the workshop with the City Commission.
- b. The Committee members wanted to know when and how the presentations would be made. It was agreed that Mr. Verma and Ms. Shuster will work with the involved departments and Ms. Mammano and prepare a list for the October 1, 2018 agenda.

B. Determination of Future Agenda Topics (See “C” under Informational items)

6. 4. General Discussion and Comments by Committee Members

A. Progress on the Elimination of the ROI by Marilyn Mammano

- a. Ms. Mammano discussed the issue of ROI and referenced Mayor Trantalis' newsletter regarding the cuts to replace the \$5 Million from the ROI in the budget.

The discussion concluded that the ITF has studied and discussed ROI, has made its recommendation to the Commission, the Commission has addressed its recommendation and now it was to wait and see if the infrastructure budget gets targeted for the cuts and if so, then ROI will be brought up again in future discussions.

B. Article *Miami Will Be Underwater Soon. Its Drinking Water Could Go First*

- a. Ms. Mammano provided a quick summary of an article published in the August 2018 edition of Bloomberg Newsweek on the wellfield conditions in Miami-Dade County. She shared this information to bring the issue of quality of drinking water extracted from the wells being impacted by saltwater intrusion and seepage from environmentally hazardous areas.

7. New Business - None

8. Public Comments - None

9. Adjournment – Next Regular Meeting October 1, 2018

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Walters, seconded by Ms. Scott.

Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 4:18 P.M.